

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in Committee Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 27 February 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Jim Brown, Jonathan McColl, John Millar, Ian Murray, Tommy Rainey, Gail Robertson, Martin Rooney, Kath Ryall and Hazel Sorrell; Francis McNeill, Community Councils' Forum; Justeen Peacock, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Barbara Barnes, Vale of Leven Community Forum; Tom Wilmshurst, Association of Clydebank Residents Groups; Tom Woodbridge, Dumbarton Community Forum; Neil Etherington, Clydebank Community Forum; Anne MacDougall, CHCP Partnership Forum, Gillian Kirkwood, Ysort-it and Brenda Pasquire, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Service.

Attending: Angela Wilson, Executive Director of Corporate Services; Peter Barry, Head of Customer and Community Services; Marion Smith, Section Head (Revenues & Benefits) and Arun Menon, Business Support Manager (in attendance for the item 'Presentation – Welfare Reform' only) and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Apologies: Apologies were intimated on behalf of Haji Munir, West Dunbartonshire Minority Ethnic Association; Rhona Young, Clydebank Seniors Forum; Hope Robertson and David Colrairie, Clydebank Asbestos Group.

Councillor John Millar in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

PRESENTATION – WELFARE REFORM

Marion Smith, Section Head (Revenues & Benefits), gave a presentation on the issue of Welfare Reform and copies of handouts were circulated to Members for their interest and information. Mr Arun Menon, Business Support Manager was also in attendance to answer any specific questions following the presentation.

The Committee noted the content of the presentation which specifically drew attention to planned housing benefit changes and how they might impact on the community of West Dunbartonshire and outlined measures which the Council was taking in an effort to safeguard and minimise adverse impact on residents, Council services and partners, the economy and Council personnel.

Following a question and answer session, the Chair, Councillor Millar, thanked Ms Smith for the interesting and informative nature of her presentation. Ms Smith and Mr Menon then left the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 28 November 2012 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the sederunt of the meeting being amended to include the apology of Anne MacDougall, CHCP Public Partnership Forum.

In relation to a question raised by Mr Etherington, concerning the post of Corporate & Community Planning Manager, the Head of Customer and Community Services advised the Committee that the vacant position had now been filled and that the new appointee would shortly be taking up the post.

PUBLIC BUDGET CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services outlining the approach to public budget consultation for the 2013/14 budget and inviting comment and feedback.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Corporate Services in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to pass on thanks to officers who were involved in facilitating the budget consultation process, which had been carried out very well and successfully prior to the budget setting meeting;
- (2) having heard the Head of Customer and Community Services, to pass on thanks to Y-Sortit for providing their bus for the Budget Consultation and for the excellent input of their workers;
- (3) having heard Mr Woodbridge, to note his suggestion that the Council should consult on its capital budget, and not just the revenue budget;
- (4) that it would be helpful and beneficial if the budget consultation could take place earlier in future, in order to try and engage more widely and effectively with communities and achieve an even better response than was the case this time; and
- (5) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

EQUALITY MAINSTREAMING REPORT AND EQUALITY OUTCOMES 2013-2017

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services summarising the proposed West Dunbartonshire Council Equality Outcomes and Equality Mainstreaming Report for 2013-2017, which was considered by the Corporate Services Committee at its meeting on 13 February 2013.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Customer and Community Services and the Equalities Policy Officer in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the terms of the discussion that had taken place concerning this issue; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

BRIEFING FROM TRANSPORT SCOTLAND CONCERNING ROUNDABOUTS AND ANCILLARY ROADS ISSUES

It was noted that due to an internal restructure the officer in Transport Scotland, who had responsibility for the A82 Trunk Road, was only recently in post and had not been able at this time to submit a briefing paper to this meeting of the Committee on roundabouts and ancillary roads issues.

After discussion, it was agreed that a letter be drafted advising Transport Scotland of the Committee's concern at how this matter had dragged on for a considerable length of time, and requesting that a representative be in attendance and/or an update provided at the next meeting of the Committee in May.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Committee members were invited to provide information for the Community News item in advance of meetings on an on-going basis.

In this respect, it was noted that none had been notified at this moment in time.

Mr Etherington suggested that this part of the agenda could perhaps be populated with information that was available via the Community Engagements Calendar. After discussion, it was agreed that this item should be reviewed in future to ensure it still adequately fitted with the purposes of the Committee.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

It was agreed to note the following items for future meetings of the Community Participation Committee.

Wed 22 May, 2013

Presentation/Reports

- Key Strategic Priorities for the Council; and CPP Development
- Presentation on Pub Watch Scheme (Licensing)
- Discussion with Transport Scotland regarding roundabouts and ancillary roads issues
- Regular update on Recycling and Waste Minimisation
- Update on Council Tax position
- 2012 Social & Economic Report (published in January 2013)

Other proposed Items for future meetings:

Update on Educational Estates;

Update on the issue of Vale of Leven Academy – traffic congestion;

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Additional Proposed Workshop

How do we improve participation from our Communities?

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY

No questions were asked by members of the public of officers during the Open Forum Session.

The meeting closed at 3.56 p.m.